

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated July 30, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner states that Document #13 on the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted June 19, 2003 is not present with the application and has not been filed. We have resubmitted this document in the IDS submitted August 13, 2004.

Applicants also submit, concurrently with this Amendment, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and copies of the cited references as attachments thereto. Consideration of these references and acknowledgment by initialing Form SB/08 is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings since the bottom portion of Fig. 2 has been omitted. Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet with an amended Fig. 2 that shows reference character "14" at the bottom. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the above objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,655,758 to Hadano et al. ("Hadano"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to a vibration isolating bushing including a main shaft member 1 including a tubular portion 11, a flange portion 12, and a block portion 14; an outer cylinder member 2 disposed coaxially on an outer side of the main shaft member 1; and a rubber elastic body 3 disposed between the main shaft member 1 and the outer cylinder member 2. The rubber elastic body 3 includes a hollow portion 31, a non-deforming rubber portion 32, and a connecting portion 33 for connecting an inner peripheral surface of the outer cylinder member 2 to the non-deforming rubber portion 32. Claim 1 has been amended to state that the non-deforming rubber portion 32 fills a gap between the flange portion 12 and an end face of the block portion 14 facing the flange portion 12 in the axial direction.

The Examiner contends that Hadano discloses all of the elements of claims 1-3. Hadano discloses a bushing with an inner tube 1 and disk-shaped stopper 5 extending radially from the inner tube 1; a hump portion 11 on the inner tube 1; an outer tube 3 disposed at a distance from the outer side of the inner tube 1; and a vibration isolating element 2 between the inner and outer tubes 1, 3 including a cavity portion 22 that faces away from the stopper 5.

However, Hadano does not disclose a non-deforming rubber portion that "fills a gap between the flange portion and an end face of the block portion facing the flange portion in the axial direction," as set forth in amended claim 1. Hadano's inclined portion 21 of the vibration isolating element 2 is disposed between an inclined surface 111 of the hump portion 11 and a tapered surface 31 of the outer tube 3 (Hadano, column 5, lines 60-63), but there is a gap (shown but not numbered) between the inclined surface 111 of the hump portion 11, which the Examiner contends is the block portion, and the stopper 5, which the Examiner contends is the flange portion. Hadano's inclined portion 21 does not fill the gap between the inclined surface 111 of the hump portion 11 and the stopper 5.

Also, Hadano's invention has a different result than the present invention. As stated on page 5, line 25, to page 6, line 5, of the present Specification, a spring (spring constant) ratio of the present invention in the axial direction with respect to the direction perpendicular to the axis is increased by the configuration of the non-deforming rubber portion 32 and an arrangement of

the hollow portion 31, the non-deforming rubber portion 32, and the connecting portion 33. However, on the other hand, Hadano achieves a different result. Hadano's bushing allows component forces in a radial direction with respect to an axial load. Since there is a gap between Hadano's hump portion 11 and stopper 5, when an axial load is applied to Hadano's stopper 5, Hadano's vibration isolating element 2 is deformed and therefore does not serve as a "non-deforming rubber portion," as set forth in the present invention. Thus, Hadano's vibration isolating element 2 allows the tapered surface 31 of the outer tube 3 to connect the hump portion 11 of the inner tube 1.

Thus, Hadano fails to teach or suggest all of the claims of the present invention as set forth in claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons. Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Denise L. Poy
Denise L. Poy
Registration No.: 53,480

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2. No new matter is added in the drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet